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SCIENCE

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CONTENTS

<i>The Influenza-Pneumonia Pandemic in the American Army Camps during September and October, 1918: MAJOR GEORGE A. SOPER.</i>	451
<i>British Science in Industry</i>	456
<i>Doctor Aleš Hrdlička and the Vero Man: DR. O. P. HAY</i>	459
<i>Scientific Events:—</i>	
<i>Recent Acquisitions for the Library and Map Collection of the Royal Geographical Society; Quicksilver Deposits in the Phoenix Mountains; The Selection of Presidents of the American Chemical Society; Medical Commission to Ecuador</i>	462
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	465
<i>University and Educational News</i>	468
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Shall Writers upon the Biological Sciences agree to ignore Systematic Papers published in the German Language since 1914: DR. W. J. HOLLAND. The Foundations of Mechanics: PROFESSOR W. S. FRANKLIN AND BARRY MACNUTT</i>	469
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Osborn on The Origin and Evolution of Life: PROFESSOR RALPH S. LILLIE</i>	472
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>A Simple Device for illustrating Molecular Motion: DR. E. R. STOECKLE. Abnormalities in the Chick Embryo: MARY T. HEAMAN...</i>	474

THE INFLUENZA PNEUMONIA PAN- DEMIC IN THE AMERICAN ARMY CAMPS DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1918¹

The pandemic of influenza which has been prevalent in Europe and which swept over the United States in the spring of 1918, causing much suffering and disability in industrial plants and loss of training time in American army camps, reappeared with greatly intensified violence in September and October. Within a month of its recognition it had been reported from nearly every quarter of the United States, civil and military.

The army and navy camps suffered severely from the outset. Rarely before in the history of war has infection exhibited a more explosive character or has so large a proportion of troops been infected in camps under conditions of abundant shelter and food and freedom from the strains and anxieties of conflict. The epidemic has been attended by an unusual fatality.

The data and deductions contained in this report are such as are warranted by daily telegrams and other sources of information collected during the course of the pandemic. The final and complete statistics will not be available until after the outbreak is completely over.

During the period September 12–October 18, 1918, inclusive, there were 274,745 cases of influenza reported among the troops in America. During the same period there were 46,286 cases of pneumonia and 14,616 deaths.

The incidence of influenza and pneumonia among all troops in the United States, week by week, from the outbreak to and including October 18, 1918, follows:

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